

# **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**

**of the**

**LIME ROCK FIRE DISTRICT, INC., 1085 Great Road, Lincoln RI 02865**

**Held December 14, 2010**

## **CALL OF THE MEETING:**

**Mr. Ronald E. Rivet, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m., December 14, 2010.**

**Present: Mr. Ronald E. Rivet, Mr. Mark Krieger, Mr. Charles N. Turner, Jr., Mr. Paul Harrison, Mr. James A. Fredrikson, Chief Frank M. Sylvester, Office Manager/Tax Collector Ms. Lesley A. Heaton, Treasurer Ms. Christine E. Wood, Ms. Cynthia O'Connell, Ms. Margaret Lawton, several firefighters, including FF David Bethel and family members.**

## **MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 9, 2010 MEETING:**

**Mr. Charles N. Turner, Jr. made a motion to accept the Minutes of the November 9, 2010 meeting. Mr. James A. Fredrikson seconded the motion, which passed with all Commissioners in agreement.**

## **MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 9, 2010 EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**Mr. Charles N. Turner, Jr. made a motion to accept the Minutes of the November 9, 2010 Executive Session and for them to remain sealed. Mr. James A. Fredrikson seconded the motion, which passed with all Commissioners in agreement.**

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

**Ms. Cynthia O'Connell stated that the Commissioners' loyalty should be with the citizens. She further stated disappointment with what she termed the bad performance of the Board of Fire Commissioners and other top officials of the Department, calling them corrupt. Ms. O'Connell took exception with the method of hiring within the Department saying it was the traditional Rhode Island way of doing things. Mr. Rivet thanked her for her input.**

**Mr. Charles N. Turner, Jr. made a motion to change the order of the agenda to have FF Bethel's swearing in next. Mr. Mark Krieger seconded the motion which passed with all Commissioners in agreement.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**2. Transfer of Firefighter David Bethel Jr. from Call/Volunteer to Full-time Status**

**Mr. Rivet related FF Bethel's qualifications, which he followed by swearing him in as a Full-time Firefighter. Speaking to his family, Commissioners, Chief, and other firefighters, FF Bethel expressed his thanks for the opportunities he had been given.**

**Chief Sylvester made comments regarding the criticism that had been leveled at the Department as recently as a few moments prior. He pointed out the quality of firefighters on the Department, including FF Bethel. He stated that Lime Rock Fire Department was the best in the Blackstone Valley.**

#### **CHIEF'S REPORT:**

**Mr. Charles N. Turner, Jr. made a motion to accept the Chief's Report as presented with the addition of the EMS report. Mr. Mark Krieger seconded the motion.**

**Mr. Fredrikson and Mr. Krieger had questions regarding different types of equipment discussed in the report.**

**As Chief Sylvester was not present at the moment, Mr. Krieger asked to defer and move to the next report. The Board then moved on to the Tax Collector's Report.**

**(1)**

#### **TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT:**

**Mr. Charles N. Turner, Jr. made a motion to approve the Tax Collector's Report as presented. Mr. James A. Fredrikson seconded the motion.**

**Mr. Fredrikson questioned the nature of an abatement, which Ms. Heaton explained to him. There were several questions relating to specific abatements.**

**Mr. Krieger asked why the Tax Collector had written “void” on a check being return to the taxpayer due to the wrong amount on the check. She explained it was done as a security measure. Mr. Krieger said she might write a letter to the individual giving that explanation.**

**Mr. Charles N. Turner, Jr. made a motion to approve the abatements as presented in the amount of \$2,830.38. Mr. James A. Fredrikson seconded the motion, which passed with all Commissioners in agreement.**

**Ms. Heaton suggested eliminating the Homestead Exemption and instituting a three tiered tax rate. She was asked to present a proposal to compare the current year assessments done at the current rate vs. revenue from a tiered rate.**

**Following discussion on the regulations on minimum tax bills, Mr. Turner recommended sending a follow-up letter to the Department of Revenue for further clarification.**

**The Tax Collector’s Report was then accepted with all Commissioners in agreement.**

## **CHIEF'S REPORT (cont.):**

**Mr. Krieger questioned the results from the air quality test at Station #1. Having found that there were more mold spores outside the station than in, he wondered if the individual could be asked to have his home tested rather than the District incurring more expense.**

**It was noted that when FF Isherwood's application to the State to become an EMS Coordinator was approved it would mean a savings of \$3-4,000 every three years for EMT re-certifications.**

**Mr. Fredrikson was pleased to hear that FF Dean's out of state training had been at no cost to the District.**

**With no further discussion, the Chief's Report was accepted with all Commissioners in agreement.**

## **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

**Mr. James A. Fredrikson made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Mr. Mark Krieger seconded the motion.**

**Mr. Harrison inquired about the checking account fees. Ms. Wood explained she had worked with her government banking representative and determined most of the increased fees were due to the volume of checks created by the motor vehicle tax. Mr. Harrison asked if he could make some inquiries with a Bank representative**

**known to him. Ms. Wood welcomed the offer.**

**The Commissioners agreed to schedule some budget workshops and an informational meeting in addition to the regular meetings as listed on the 2011 Schedule of Meetings. Dates would be confirmed at a later date and the Schedule was confirmed as presented.**

**In response to a question from Mr. Harrison, Ms. Wood explained the special COBRA regulations in relation to Federal economic relief efforts.**

**(2)**

**The Treasurer’s Report was then approved with all Commissioners in agreement.**

**BILLS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL:**

<b>Payroll Expenses:</b>	<b>dated 11/01/10-12/08/10 in the amount of \$175,502.98</b>
<b>Interim Expenses:</b>	<b>dated 11/01/10-12/09/10 in the amount of \$ 81,771.59</b>
<b>Non-Budgetary Interim Expenses:</b>	<b>dated 11/01/10-12/09/10 in the amount of \$ 1,000.00</b>
<b>Bills for Initial Approval</b>	<b>dated 12/10/10-12/10/10 in the amount of \$ 4,246.89</b>

**Total: \$262,521.46**

**Mr. Charles N. Turner, Jr. made a motion to approve the Bills Submitted for Approval in the amount of \$262,521.46 as presented. Mr. James A. Fredrikson seconded the motion, which passed with all Commissioners in agreement.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**There was no Old Business to be discussed.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Clarification on Extended Absences/Non-Work Related**

**Ms. Wood stated that Chief Sylvester wanted the Board's policy on handling long-term absences that were not work-related. She said that past practice had been to send a letter to an individual asking that person's intentions. Mr. Rivet replied that each case is individual and a good place to start would be with a letter as in the past. It was agreed that the Chief would be authorized to handle as he deemed necessary.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Mr. Turner questioned the wording "Chief's Convention Allowance" in the FY 09-09 Compilation received from Carlucci and Dugan. Ms. Wood stated that the line item name had not been changed until FY 09-10.**

**Ms. Wood read a holiday card from the State Police which included a thank you note.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Mr. Charles N. Turner, Jr. made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Paul Harrison seconded the motion, which passed with all Commissioners in agreement. The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Christine E. Wood,  
Recording Secretary**

**cc: R. Rivet, M. Krieger, C. Turner, P. Harrison, J. Fredrikson, file**



